

EXHIBIT 14  
2/7/07  
60

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

ARLENE RIGGS, CLERK

Shauna Carter, Chief Deputy  
Jennifer Blekestad, Deputy

February 5, 2007

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY:

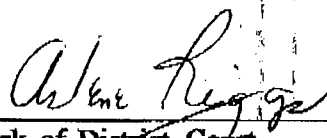
I am writing in support of House Bill 60. During the period that Richland County had the Self Help Project we were amazed at the number of people who took advantage of this program. Donna Goff was our local coordinator who not only had the knowledge of the legal documents & information needed by clients but most important she had the compassion it takes to help sometimes very desperate people.

We have had people come to our office in tears because they could not afford an attorney but were in a very unhappy and sometimes abusive marriage with no where to turn. It was such a relief to them when we told them about the self help project.

As Clerk's of Court we sometimes walked on thin ice because we are constantly reminded that we CANNOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE yet we too are compassionate people & it was very hard on us not to be able to help them as much as we would have liked to.

In 2005 we filed 45 Dissolutions and 19 of those were filed by Pro Se litigants, in 2006 we filed 46 Dissolutions and 20 of those were Pro Se so the need is definitely there. These statistics are from a smaller county, I can only imagine the number that some of the large counties are filing.

Please vote for HB 60, it is desperately needed....Thank-you for your time and consideration...

  
Clerk of District Court